

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are currently pending in the present application. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowance of claims 16-27. Furthermore, the Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 2, 7, 8, and 11-15 contain allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1, 3-6, 9 and 10 were rejected in the Office Action dated December 28, 2004. In response, the Applicant has cancelled claims 1, 3-6, 9 and 10 and have rewritten claims 2, 7, 8 and 11 to include the subject matter indicated allowable by the Office Action dated December 28, 2004. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowability is respectfully requested.

A. Amendment to Claims

Claim 2 was indicated as containing allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form. Claim 2 has been amended to include all of the features of claim 1 and therefore it is respectfully submitted that claim 2 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 7 was indicated as containing allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form. Claim 7 now depends from claim 2 which is allowable and therefore claim 7 is allowable for at least this reason.

Claim 8 was indicated as containing allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form. Claim 8 now depends from claim 2 which is allowable and therefore claim 8 is allowable for at least this reason.

Claim 11 was indicated as containing allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent

form. Claim 11 now depends from claim 2 which is allowable and therefore claim 11 is allowable for at least this reason.

Claims 12-15 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form. Claims 12-15 now depend directly or indirectly from claim 11. Claim 11 depends from claim 2 which is allowable and therefore claims 12-15 are allowable for at least this reason.

B. 102 Rejections

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,351,638 to Helleberg (hereinafter the "Helleberg reference"). Claims 1 and 3 have been cancelled herein and therefore this rejection is moot.

C. 103 Rejections

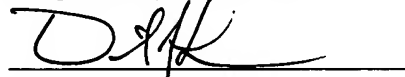
Claims 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over the Helleberg reference. Claims 4-6 have been cancelled herein and therefore this rejection is moot.

Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over the Helleberg reference in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,149,479 to Redmon et al. (hereinafter the "Redmon reference"). Claims 9 and 10 have been cancelled herein and therefore this rejection is moot.

D. Conclusion

The Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests they pass to issue. Reconsideration of the present application as amended is respectfully requested. Should it facilitate allowance of the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted:



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